**Press Clippings.**—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

### Extract Found to Kill Tuberculosis Bacilli

Los Angeles, Sept. 14.—(AP.)—Dr. Anthony J. Salle, assistant professor of bacteriology at the University of California at Los Angeles, says he has discovered that a bacillus extract known as subtilin will kill tuberculosis bacilli.

"Subtilin is much like penicillin," said the bacteriologist, "but it goes further in this particular field. Penicillin is not deadly to the tuberculosis bacillus, but subtilin is. It is also fatal to other bacilli, including streptococcus, staphylococcus, pneumococcus and gonococcus."

Salle, who has been working on the subtilin project for seven months with a co-worker, research assistant Gregory Jann, said the substance is derived from a bacterium called bacillus subtilis, commonly known as "hay bacillus," which is found in the ground, in the air and on hay.

In Chicago, Dr. Maurice Fishbein, editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association,* made this comment on Dr. Salle's announcement:

"There is little reason to be optimistic about the study at this time.

"Many new drugs have been found in the past to control the organisms of tuberculosis in the test tube, but when they were applied to the human body they did not prove effective. There is no reason why the search should not continue; yet there is little reason to be especially optimistic about this discovery at this time."—San Francisco *Call-Bulletin,* September 14.

### My Day

Hyde Park, Sept. 6.— . . . Most people who have even moderate incomes prepare for the advent of a baby and lay the money aside. If there are no great complications, that does not cause a complete dislocation of the family budget. It has meant a great deal to many young wives of men in the service to be taken care of under the E.M.I.C. Plan, and I have had a number of them say rather wistfully that they wished such a plan could continue functioning in peacetime. . . .

It seems to me the Government might well guarantee that these two phases of the health of the Nation shall go forward unhampered and properly financed.

The Senate Health Bill, as proposed, puts much responsibility on the states. But it does leave supervision in the hands of the surgeon general, and I think the advisory committee gives the kind of safeguard which should make sure that there will be no hampering of either research or education in the future.

Federal assistance should be available for the handling of hospitals and clinics. This, of course, is essential, since many communities can meet the running expenses, but are unable to make the first capital investment for buildings and equipment.

On the whole, the Wagner-Murray-Dingell health bill seems to me to give us more hope than we have ever had for health in our communities throughout the Nation.—Eleanor Roosevelt in San Francisco *News,* September 7.

### British Find New Chemical a Super DDT

Boston.—A super-DDT, a synthetic compound even deadlier to insects than the original DDT, has been discovered by British chemists. It is known by the convenience-name of Gammexane, and is sometimes referred to by the Apocalyptic number 666. Its exact chemical designation is the gamma isomer of benzene hexachloride.

Not closely related to DDT in its structural chemistry, the compound seems to be even more of a knockout so far as insects are concerned, a report by A. D. Little, Inc., states. By a curious coincidence, its history is like that of DDT in that its existence had been known for a long time, but its insecticidal properties had not been suspected until it was tried out relatively recently. Then it was discovered to be the deadliest weevil poison that the British firm's chemists had ever tested, and it would kill flies in half the concentration required in a DDT solution. It was also proven to be deadlier than DDT to Aedes egypti, the mosquito that carries yellow fever.

It is not known whether Gammexane is as persistent as DDT under ordinary use.—*Science Service.*

### Housewives Cautioned Against Improper Use of DDT in Home

*Keep Poisonous Powder Away From Kitchen Supplies, Dr. Fishbein Advises; Says Large Doses Can Prove Harmful*

Housewives who find use for DDT, the powerful new insecticide known to chemists as dichlorodiphenyltrichlorethane, are cautioned against placing the poisonous powder where it might be mixed with kitchen supplies.

"In large doses DDT is poisonous to human beings and to a good many animals," writer Editor Morris Fishbein, M.D., in the October issue of *Hygeia,* the health magazine of the American Medical Association. "When DDT is properly used, these poisonous effects are controlled; if it is improperly used, they may be harmful." Continuing, Dr. Fishbein said:

"Experiments made during the war show that DDT has a great variety of uses as an insecticide. It gets rid of mosquitoes, bedbugs, lice, fleas, moths and other insects.

"Since it can destroy fish, cattle or fowl if taken in large amounts into the body, its use should be limited so as to prevent the destruction of animals.

"DDT is best used as a spray, or as a powder, in the concentrations that have been found to be efficient for specific purposes.

"DDT is known to be efficient against the coddling moth that attacks apples, the cherry fruit fly, the cabbage worm, the grape-berry moth, and the raspberry fruit worm.

"Against ants and termites DDT is toxic in relatively low concentrations. Ants exposed to a five per cent solution have difficulty in walking within a few minutes after coming in contact with it. After half an hour, most of them are unable to stand up; they die several hours later. Termites avoid DDT if it is in their neighborhood, but a great deal more needs to be known about ways to get termites into contact with DDT. When DDT is sprayed on house screens, dissolved, as it frequently is, in kerosene, it is effective in destroying flies and preventing their entrance into homes. It has been found useful against fleas on dogs and against roaches.

"DDT, when used to destroy insects, is mixed with other substances. Thus the user is confronted with the hazards not only of DDT but also of the substances with which it is mixed. Kerosene is inflammable; this carries a fire hazard. In the weak dilutions in which DDT is usually used—anywhere from one to three or five per cent—around the house as a spray or a powder for dusting, it is relatively safe. When used in immense quantities, the possibility of inhaling large amounts of DDT into the lungs brings another hazard. People who are professionally engaged in the work of insect extermination should probably use respirators for their own protection."

In reviewing DDT's development, Dr. Fishbein explained that the chemical had been known for almost 70 years. When the Germans passed up an opportunity to make use of it, Swiss scientists synthesized the product and found out its insecticidal value. As far back as 1938 it was used to get rid of a beetle which threatened Switzerland's potato crop.—*J.A.M.A.,* Sept. 13.

### Newsprint Controls May Be Ended December 31

Washington, Sept. 13.—(AP.)—All government controls on newsprint will be abolished December 31, it appeared likely today, and paper allocations to United States publishers will be increased for the fourth quarter.

Relaxation of newsprint usage restrictions one full degree in the sliding scale formula of deductions beginning October 1, and revocation of Limitation Order 240 at the end of the year were recommended by the newspaper industry advisory committee at a two-day session with War Production Board officials, the agency announced. . . .—Los Angeles *Times,* September 14.

## LETTERS†

**Concerning California Board of Medical Examiners—Examination and Reciprocity Statistics:**

September 21, 1945.

Frederick N. Scatena, M.D., Secretary
California State Board of Medical Examiners
1020 N Street, Room 536
Sacramento 14, California.

Dear Doctor Scatena:

In CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for June, 1945, on P. 315, was printed the address you gave at this

† CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE does not hold itself responsible for views expressed in articles or letters when signed by the author.

year's annual session of the California Medical Association.

In that report you gave statistics concerning the number of those who had taken written examinations and reciprocity-oral examinations. The figures were not given for the year 1945.

* * *

I am writing to ask if you have statistics for the first six months of the current year.

Inquiries have come in asking for information concerning the number of physicians who have not had licenses in California, and who are applying for such either through written examinations or through reciprocity-oral examinations.

What information can you give us in regard thereto?

* * *

Under the present interpretation of the Medical Practice Act for M.D. physicians and surgeons, how often is the State Board of Medical Examiners holding examinations?

Cordially yours,
GEORGE H. KRESS, M.D., *Editor.*

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(COPY)
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of
PROFESSIONAL AND VOCATIONAL STANDARDS
Board of Medical Examiners
Sacramento, California, September 26, 1945.
Yours of September 21st. Re: Statistics.

Dear Doctor Kress:

In view of the law which states that an examination must be afforded an applicant within six months of the filing date, the numbers of examinees so falling due will determine the number of oral examinations we will have each year.

Written examinations are usually conducted four times a year. A written examination is held at each regular meeting of the Board of which there are three, and a special written examination was held this year in San Francisco to accommodate those who, because of the accelerated medical course, were graduating at a time falling between our regular examinations. We enclose herewith a memo giving the number of applications for written examination and the number of applications for reciprocity filed between January 1 and July 1, 1945.

Our statistics are as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Class A: Written | 342 |
| Class C: Reciprocity | 382 |
| Class D: Government Credentials | 16 |
| Class G: National Board | 47 |
| | 787 |

Very truly yours,
(Signed) FREDERICK N. SCATENA, M.D.,
*Secretary-Treasurer.*

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**Concerning Relative Amount of Energy in Climbing and Walking:**

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Department of Physiology
Stanford University, California, Sept. 17, 1945.

Dear Mr. Kress:

In reply to your letter of Aug. 13 requesting information for Mr. Jerry Carpenter, State Chamber of Commerce regarding "the relative amount of energy required by men and women in climbing stairs, as against traveling on level ground."

The most accurate work along this line that I have found is "Gaseous Exchange and Physiological Requirements for Level and Grade Walking," by H. M. Smith, Publication No. 309, Carnegie Institution of Washington, 1922. In this paper it is shown that the increase in energy expenditure in walking horizontally amounts to about 0.5 gram calories per kilogrammeter. Walking up a grade requires an expenditure of 7.5 gram calories per kilogrammeter. Stairs are usually built so that the tread (horizontal distance) and the riser (vertical distance) are definitely related, e.g., 2 risers plus one tread = 23". On the stairs in my house the riser = 16.5 cm. and the tread = 28.5 cm. A 50 kilo man climbing 10 such steps would expend energy as follows:

Horizontal progression, $50 \times 10.0 \times 0.285 \times 0.5 = 71.25$ cm. cal.
Vertical progression, $50 \times 10.0 \times 0.165 \times 7.5 = 608.75$ gm. cal.

Therefore it requires nine times as much energy to climb the stairs as it would to progress the same horizontal distance.

I hope this information is adequate but will be glad to go into the subject at greater length if need be.

Yours sincerely,
J. PERCY BAUMBERGER,
(*Prof. Physiol.*)

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**Concerning Generous Gift to Barlow Sanatorium by Los Angeles Elks:**

THE BARLOW SANATORIUM ASSOCIATION
Incorporated under the Eleemosynary Laws of California
1301 Chavez Ravine Road
Founded by Dr. W. Jarvis Barlow
Los Angeles, California, October 2, 1945.

CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE
450 Sutter — Room 2004
San Francisco, California.

Sirs:

This is to announce that the Barlow Sanatorium of Los Angeles has just received a gift of $12,000 from the B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 99 of Los Angeles for the establishment of a library for research in tuberculosis.* This fund is intended to finance the erection of a small building, the purchase of furniture and equipment, books and medical journal subscriptions. It is hoped to build up as complete a library as possible in the field of tuberculosis and diseases of the chest.

This library will be designed to serve the staff of the Sanatorium, the teaching of student nurses in tuberculosis, teaching of medical students from the University of Southern California in tuberculosis, post graduate courses for physicians in tuberculosis, an physicians or other persons in this area seriously interested in tuberculosis. The reading room of the library will be designed for use as a class room for staff meetings, committee meetings, lectures, etc.

It will be known as the Elks' Tuberculosis Library of the Barlow Sanatorium.

Sincerely,
The Barlow Sanatorium Association,
HOWARD W. BOSWORTH, M.D.,
*Medical Director.*

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* Coöperation of B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 99 of Los Angeles made it possible for California Medical Association to obtain meeting room facilities for the annual session held this year on May 6-7, 1945.

The late W. Jarvis Barlow, M.D., founder of the Barlow Sanatorium also founded the Barlow Medical Library, later to become the Library of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.—Ed.